Students internt for Georgia representatives as part of the GC in DC program

In the late afternoon of Oct. 14, 2014, Congressman John Barrow.

For graduate and international student Anemia Blackler, her experience has been steeped in putting the skills she’s acquired in her communications courses into action. Blackler, who is a press intern for Congressman Sanford Bishop Jr., is confident she will continue to work in govern- ment communications after receiving her masters.

"The highlight so far has been to shadow Congressman Bishop on different events. I was able to follow him during the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Confer-

cence a couple of weeks ago," said Blakler. "My experience so far has been amazing and I’m learning new things everyday.

Their time in the nation’s capital has also been an eye-

opening experience, which Zoeckler says has been both

hard and good.

"I would say my biggest mistake has been my frustration," I’ve been disappointed by the amount of partisanship I’ve seen while interning," said Zoeckler. "While it is a common mistake here, none of this is to say there aren’t many staff

ers and congressmen and women who are passionate about changing it.

Part of the intern’s experience is also rooted in daily staff-

er responsibilities including communication with constitu-

ents, conducting research on foreign dignitaries, securing co-sponsors for bills and attending hearings. Spoiru says this type of well-rounded internship will only aid students in their future, no matter what their career may be.

"Our ultimate goal is to help students make important professional contacts, provide practical experience that connects to their academic work and enhance their resume credentials," said Spoiru.

Moving forward, Spoiru hopes to expand the program by offering focused classes.

"We are in the process of establishing a program advisory board, and it is our hope that we could support greater fac-

ulty involvement," said Spoiru. "Ultimately, having faculty offer focused courses to our interns in Washington would help maximize the impact of this experience. For Zoeckler, her experience so far has been unique and she hopes to return for her future after Georgia College.

"I’ll most likely go back to school in some form in the future. There’s a lot of ways to help and a lot of things that need changing," said Zoeckler. "And an internship like this is the best way to start."